

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS,  
EMERGENCY GENERATOR BUILDINGS  
(Veterans Administration Facility, Jefferson Barracks, Building Nos.  
83, 84, 85 & 87)  
(Veterans Administration Hospital, Jefferson Barracks)  
(Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks  
Division)  
VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division  
1 Jefferson Barracks Drive  
Saint Louis  
Independent City  
Missouri

HABS MO-1943-AG  
*MO-1943-AG*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, EMERGENCY GENERATOR BUILDINGS (BUILDINGS 83, 84, 85, and 87)

HABS No. MO-1943-AG

**Location:** Buildings 83, 84, 85, and 87, VA Medical Center, 1 Jefferson  
Barracks Drive, St. Louis, Missouri  
USGS Quadrangle Oakville, Missouri  
UTM Coordinates for Building 83: 16 7258428 E 9965818 N  
UTM Coordinates for Building 84: 16 7258046 E 9965105 N  
UTM Coordinates for Building 85: 16 7258335 E 9965521 N  
UTM Coordinates for Building 87: 16 7257723 E 9964975 N

**Date of Construction:** 1979

**Designer:** U.S. Veterans Administration (VA)

**Contractor:** Unknown

**Present Owner:** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

**Present Use:** Emergency Generator Buildings

**Significance:** These facilities were built in 1979 to provide emergency power for major buildings at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division. The buildings continue to function as emergency generator facilities today.

**Project Information:** This project was sponsored and funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as mitigation for the demolition of buildings at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, a property that has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places via consensus determination of eligibility between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources State Historic Preservation Office.

**Description:**

The Emergency Generator Buildings (Buildings 83-85 and 87) are all small steel-frame buildings with vertical metal exterior cladding. Each building contains emergency generator equipment that would be able to provide electrical power to a portion of the medical center in case of a power outage. The design of the buildings differs slightly. Building 85 has a metal gabled roof while Buildings 83, 84, and 87 have metal hipped roofs. All of these buildings have a large metal louvered ventilator opening, and each building has a single or double flat metal door.

Building 83 sits in the southern half of the medical center campus, while the other three emergency generator buildings are positioned throughout the northern portion of the campus. Building 83 is located just south of the former Dining Hall (Building 23) and is fairly close to the Main Hospital (Building 1), a large building. Building 84 sits near the southeast corner of the former Spinal Cord Injury Unit and Tuberculosis Neuropsychiatry Building (Building 52), and Building 85 is positioned on the east side of the former Neuropsychiatric Hospital Admissions Building (Building 50). Building 87 is near the southeast corner of the former Neuropsychiatric Hospital Disturbed Building (Building 53). Buildings 84, 85, and 87 are all located next to large brick buildings that were constructed in the early 1950s to expand psychiatric care facilities at the medical center campus. Building 83 is located further to the south in an area dominated by buildings constructed from 1922 through ca. 1939.

**History:**

Buildings 83-85 and 87 are small emergency generator sheds, all of which are prefabricated steel-frame utility buildings with metal cladding. The buildings and their generators were added to the medical center in 1979 to provide stable emergency electrical service to the major hospital treatment buildings in case normal electrical service was disrupted:<sup>1</sup>

- Building 83 provides backup power to the Main Hospital (Building 1), which now serves as a health clinic and administrative facility.
- Building 84 provides backup power to what was originally a facility for Spinal Cord injuries and mental patients with tuberculosis (Building 52) and is now the hospital's spinal cord injury center.
- Building 85 provides backup power to what was originally the neuropsychiatric hospital's Admissions Building (Building 50); the Admissions Building now houses

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, *Annual Real Property Survey Report, Building Numbers and Locations, Jefferson Barracks VAMC*, 1990, on file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division,

psychiatric treatment facilities on the first floor and is used for storage on the upper floors. The Admissions Building is scheduled for demolition in the near future.

- Building 87 provides backup power to the former Disturbed Building (Building 53), which is now a nursing home.

**Sources:**

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. *Annual Real Property Survey Report, Building Numbers and Locations, Jefferson Barracks VAMC*. 1990. On file at St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

**Historians:**

Maria Burkett, Roy Hampton  
Hardlines Design Company  
4608 Indianola Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43214  
Tel: 614-784-8733  
Fax: 614-786-9336